

# THE BULLETIN OF THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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LIFE begins in New Orleans, as it presumably does in other parts of Louisiana, not "at forty", but in October. Throughout the heated summer months mental activities are almost at a standstill. But with the first breath of autumn all this part of the world begins to know a feverish activity which continues throughout the winter and spring. Shutters are swung back from the windows of the exclusive, newly opened shops. Cool draperies make way for more substantial and sombre hangings. Clubs spring into activity, readers begin to throng libraries in search of knowledge, social calendars are completely filled. The word hibernation is scarcely in our vocabulary, but we must admit knowing the meaning of estimation. Our excuse for the delay in the appearance of this bulletin, authorized at the Shreveport meeting, must be that the season, up to now, has been inappropriate. Our hope is that there may be no further irregularity or delay. The bulletin should appear quarterly, in September, December, March and June.

This is the organ of the Louisiana Library Association. To every member of the Association we say this is *your* bulletin—yours to promote and encourage, to improve and to criticize favorably or unfavorably. We need the help of every member to make a bulletin which shall compare favorably with those of kindred organizations.

When the editors began to examine the contents of other library journals of recent date they were impressed with the fact that Louisiana has not had its proper place in the sun so far as news is concerned. All of us know that much of general interest to the library world has been happening in our state. Probably it's our fault that we have not sent news of important events to an interested outside world. Now we have our opportunity to be heard. The editors beg your active support. Send us word of anything of interest that is happening in your library community.

Our sincerest thanks go to those who have given so generously of their time and effort to make this issue possible. To all contributors, our heartfelt gratitude and a wish that their future labors may be made easier by many willing hands.

Finally, thanks to our friends, the advertisers, without whose help this bulletin would not have appeared. They are loyal supporters who have cooperated with us on many occasions in many ways. Say a kind word for these advertising firms—do better than that—remember them with your orders. They deserve it.

Let us all work together for a better and more helpful bulletin.

# *The Tri-Parish Library*

By MARGARET DIXON

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WITH a total circulation of 45,940 books during the three and a half months that it has been in operation, Louisiana's tri-parish library, first in the United States financed and directed by a state agency, is a successful reality now.

The library is operated in Winn, Grant and Jackson parishes by the Louisiana Library Commission and is designated to show not only that the carefully organized library under the direction of a trained librarian is the best method of bringing books to the state's large rural population but also that parishes may be combined into one unit for library service.

It was on June 12 that the tri-parish library began its services to the 30,000 or more white residents of the three parishes chosen for this unique demonstration. Only a month before, the demonstration existed only in the minds of library commission members and workers upon whom fell the responsibility of speeding the work, arranged at request of Governor Richard W. Leche.

Now the library is an important unit in the lives of the residents of the area served, 16 branches have been established, and books are distributed regularly by means of a library-on-wheels or a bookmobile which chugs its way faithfully over good roads and bad in an effort to bring books within reach of all the people.

The institution will continue for one year as a state demonstration but already the residents of the parishes served are considering ways and means of making the library a permanent part of the community.

The tri-parish library is indirectly a result of Governor Leche's interest in library development in Louisiana. At his request the Louisiana Library Commission and the state board of education evolved two parallel experiments in the library field. The state board has placed 100 books in the libraries of each of the high schools in 10 parishes. Designed

for adult reading, the books will probably be distributed largely through the school children. This phase of the Louisiana experiment is under the direction of and is being financed by the state board of education and like the tri-parish library will be continued for one year.

The second half of the experiment is the tri-parish library which some librarians and educators believe will prove once and for all the best method of bringing books to Louisiana's rural population. It is being directed by the Louisiana Library Commission which is furnishing the larger share of the necessary funds. The state department of education gave \$10,000 for the tri-parish library, stipulating that this money was to be used to purchase books.

Miss Mary Harris, past president of the Louisiana Library Association and librarian for many years in Webster parish, consented to take active charge of the tri-parish library. Working with her are Miss Bess Vaughan of Ruston, who is on leave of absence from the New York public library to assist in the demonstration here; Miss Elizabeth Cammack of Lake Providence, who is head of the Grant parish unit of the library; Miss Anna Johnson of Michigan, who is in charge of the Jackson parish unit, and Miss Louise Grey, who is assisting in the headquarters at Winnfield in Winn parish. In addition the staff includes a few untrained workers, who serve in the clerical department and in similar capacities.

In the first seven weeks the tri-parish library opened 15 branches and the following week three bookmobile routes were established, one in each parish.

"The first trips were unannounced," Miss Harris wrote in her initial report submitted to the Louisiana Library Commission, "but were received most enthusiastically by those served in the rural districts. A lack of interest was shown by all until they learned that the books

and the service were entirely free of charge, when amazement and interest were shown, as well as pleasure to think that the country people were to share in the service given to those living in towns and larger communities.

"The entire area was ready for book service—many had previously used books from the Louisiana Library Commission. The immediate response to the opening of library branches in the several communities was large. The library was at once faced with a specialized demand for various services and even the small children have asked for specific books they wished to read. These requests have been received from all over the area, from the smaller branches and from individuals on the bookmobile routes.

"The demonstration library is now facing the fact that its book stock is entirely inadequate, that branch libraries plead for more books of fiction, more children's books.

"Two places have already requested plans for permanent buildings. Visitors from Lincoln parish have made two trips to see the tri-parish library in operation. The library boards of control in the three parishes which include members of other official boards have shown great interest and have been unanimous in the opinion that the project must be made a permanent institution and are planning toward that end."

During August the tri-parish library opened its 16th branch, which circulated 232 books in eight days. In August, too, the bookmobile service was worked out, Miss Harris reporting:

"The bookmobile opened service to the three parishes during the month, one day a week in each with 26 stops in all. Books issued from the bookmobile number 1,169 with books issued to adults outnumbering those to children by 179. Registration figures are as yet incomplete for this service but 344 persons have been registered, 197 adults and 147 children. The library-on-wheels carried 801 books and is now equipped with a card table and camp chair to be set up at each stop under the shade of some convenient tree or else under a filling station awning. Mothers with babies in arms, grandfathers

walking feebly with canes and young children swarm to the sides and help lower the panels. One young woman walks two miles each way for her books.

"During the month another new project has been initiated. Two NYA supervisors in Grant and Winn parishes have been instructed in the art of book repair.

"Interest in the project shows a constant increase in each of the parishes. During the winter there will be roads that cannot be traversed but it is hoped that through children in the schools service can be extended to these areas."

One of the unusual features of the tri-parish library has been its extensive use by adults, since the adult circulation has exceeded the juvenile for every month since the service began, Miss Harris pointed out.

But this she finds eminently satisfactory since the idea of the tri-parish idea was to furnish books for adults. The project as outlined by Miss Essae Martha Culver, executive secretary of the Louisiana Library Commission, was designed primarily to bring books to adults in rural areas since it is generally felt that the children are at least partially provided with books through their school libraries.

In her report for September Miss Harris wrote:

"The bookmobile use increased over the previous month notwithstanding the fact that there was a loss in juvenile circulation. The library welcomes this indication of popularity with the adult rural population.

"Requests for bookmobile stops at schools, increase of registration by children, visits to headquarters by teachers—all signs point to a later upswing in juvenile and school demands. Many subject requests have been received from grade teachers."

A total of 5,325 borrowers have been registered in the tri-parish library thus far but Miss Harris explains that this does not represent the total number of library users since usually a number obtain books on the same card.

The tri-parish library has been besieged

(Continued on page 11.)

1937

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1938

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Louisiana State University Library  
Baton Rouge, La.

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Shreve Memorial Library  
Shreveport, La.

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2nd Vice-President  
Louisiana State University School  
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New Orleans, La.

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Federal Relations Committee—Chairman, R. W. McComb, Tulane University, New Orleans; Helen Gordon Stewart, L. S. U. Library; Florrinell Francis, L. S. U. Library.

Library School Breakfasts—Chairman, Kathryn Berly, Springhill—Peabody Chairman, —Elizabeth Johnson, L. S. U.—L. S. U. Chairman—Metella Williams, L. S. U.—Illinois Chairman—Marjorie Leigh, L. P. I.

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Nominating Committee—Chairman, Robert J. Usher, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans; Evelyn Stuart, Algiers, La.; Ella V. Aldrich, L. S. U. Library.

Policy Committee on Bulletin — Chairman, Essae M. Culver, Louisiana Library Commission, Baton Rouge, La.; Ella V. Aldrich, L. S. U.; Lois Shortess, Baton Rouge; Sara Jones, Ferriday, Louisiana.

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Trustees Section—Chairman, Sam S. Caldwell, Shreveport; Mrs. Margaret Baker, Minden, La.; Mr. W. M. Knott, Many, La.; J. O. Modisette, Jennings.



## High School Libraries

Finding herself included in two professions, teaching and librarianship, the school librarian has a double task of keeping informed. The following items of news from the educational field are included as being of interest:

The Louisiana Teachers Association will hold its annual meeting in Shreveport, November 18-20. The School Library Section will meet on Friday afternoon, November 19, and it is hoped that a large number of librarians and administrators will be present.

A library for use in the study of the curriculum was established at L. S. U. during the past summer session, and is being organized and enlarged this year. The librarian in charge is Ruby Grey Hughes, a graduate of the L. S. U. Library School, and formerly a teacher-librarian at the Coushatta High School.

The collection includes both professional books for teachers and books on all subjects for the grades and high school, the latter having been donated to the Curriculum Laboratory by various publishers for examination. The emphasis is on content books which can be used as reference or background material to enrich teaching. Besides the students in the L. S. U. education courses, many teachers in the vicinity of Baton Rouge visit the library to learn what material is available that will be useful, for example, in teaching a fourth-grade unit on Louisiana, or a sixth-grade unit on the community. The collection is used only for laboratory purposes, books not being allowed to circulate.

It is believed that this library will be of great value in advancing the curriculum study program in the state.

School librarians have found themselves much in demand during the past summer, and the beginning of another session finds many of them in new positions. All the available Louisiana librarians have been placed, and there are several newcomers from other states. Among these are graduates of the library schools at the Kansas State Teachers

College, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Illinois, and Columbia University.

Some of the full-time librarians entering new positions this fall are: Alice Songe, Church Point High School; Berniece Stonebraker, Oakdale High School; Verlyn Cutrer, Oil City High School; Vera Mae Cowen, Assistant Librarian, Byrd High School, Shreveport; Lucile Pugh, Fair Park High School, Shreveport; Ella Mae Bridges, De Quincey High School; Betsy Harrison, Summerfield High School; Ruth Laughlin, New Iberia High School; Christine Thain, Metairie High School; Evelyn Peters, Colton High School, New Orleans; Esther Bowie, Warren Easton High School, New Orleans; Mildred Gantt, Ouachita Parish High School, Monroe; Blanche Fleming, Bolton High School, Alexandria; Thora Chartier, Mangham High School; Ruth Clark, Rayville High School; Kathryn Williams Moore, Many High School; Frances Thibaut, Litcher High School; Sara Weathersby, Lake Charles High School.

Vara Hardcastle is now librarian of the Little Rock Junior College, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Geneva Hall has accepted a position in the Cossitt Library at Memphis, Tennessee. Both of these were formerly Louisiana high-school librarians.

Written carefully in pencil, in a large, round hand, this letter has been received by Miss Lois F. Shortess, State Supervisor of School Libraries:

McDonogh School No. 14  
New Orleans, La.

September 16, 1937

Dear Miss Shortess,

Thank you for all the lovely books.  
We are happy to have them. Thank you again.

Your little friends,  
In Room 7.

Not only these New Orleans children,  
(Continued on page 15.)

## *College and University Libraries*

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PERSONALITIES IN COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWS

Louisiana State University Library School appointments from the 1937 class are: Mrs. Ruby Hanks, Shirley Taylor, Nell Russell, John M. Goudeau, James C. McDougald and Robert Tucker.

Miss MARY C. RICE, formerly of the Library Staff of Texas A & M College and last year serving as Librarian of Austin (Texas) Public Library on leave from A & M College, begins her work at L. S. U. this year as Instructor in Book and Libraries course in the Lower Division and Assistant Reader's Advisory work in our Browsing Room.

Miss ROSILIA CALLAGHAN has returned from a year's study at Columbia University School of Library Service, having obtained the degree of B. S. in L. S. there this spring. She is to be full time librarian of the School of Journalism Library at L. S. U.

Miss LENORA HODGES of Lafayette, Louisiana, a member of the Southwestern, Louisiana Institute library staff, and Mr. Harry K. Hooker of Carthage, Texas, were married September 4, 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Hooker are making their home in Carthage. Mrs. Hooker is a graduate of Southwestern and received her degree of B. S. in L. S. from the University of Illinois in 1933.

Miss IRENE SMITH has returned to the Southwestern Louisiana Institute library staff replacing Miss Hodges.

Library Science courses are being offered at Southwestern to meet the requirements of the State Department of Education for part-time librarians. Three college-session hours of library science will be given, thus allowing these students to fill positions in high schools where the enrollment is less than 200.

At the beginning of the fall semester the Centenary College library sponsored three in-

troductory lectures in "How to Use Books and Libraries" through the Freshman English Classes, using a small pamphlet edited by the librarian. This course is offered in addition to the three hour course in library science preparatory for teacher librarians in small schools and high schools.

Because of the fact that so many completely new assistants were being employed for the coming year at Centenary College it was felt that some special training should be given these prospective assistants before the opening of school. With this thought in mind an Institute was held for one day preceding the formal opening of school. During the day special reference problems were given the desk assistants as well as special instructions in the housing of the various special collections.

One phase of the promotional program at Dodd College centers around the work of certain extra-curricular organizations. The librarian and her staff, in cooperation with the various departmental clubs, sponsor a book review in the library once a month. On these occasions members of the organization in charge of the program review books that are closely related to the work of that club. At the conclusion of the reviews there is a social hour during which time books on display are examined, questions asked, and books in general discussed in an informal manner.

Another feature of the Dodd College library promotional program, which we anticipate will bring definite results in the stimulation of better and more reading on the part of our students this year, is the appearance each month of Miss Annette Duchein of the L. S. U. book circle.

Our library is also inaugurating an Honors Reading course which seeks to broaden the cultural background of students by offering to them selected reading in various fields of knowledge.

The idea is not original on our part but we feel that it is a profitable procedure. The details of the course have been worked out by the Library committee to meet local conditions.

The program is organized under five main divisions in five various fields of knowledge. No academic credit is given but mention is made at commencement for the students completing her reading according to specified rules.

#### IMPROVEMENTS AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Library has two special collections in Hill Memorial Library Building that are very popular with research students. One of these is the Romance Language Room and the other is known as the Louisiana Room. The collection in Romance Languages was greatly strengthened by the purchase of the famous library of the late Professor D. S. Blondheim of Johns Hopkins University. His library was especially strong in the dialects of the various Romance countries and the entire collection numbered over 4,000 volumes.

The Louisiana Room has continued adding to its card bibliography of printed material, including N. Y. Times articles but excluding other newspaper references, until now there are approximately 80,000 cards in this file. Other interesting projects in this department include a file of illustrations, a map collection and a clipping collection—all arranged according to a definite plan. The collection of Louisiana documents is being bound and catalogued as rapidly as funds permit.

An Archives Department was inaugurated during 1936-37 and has made considerable headway in gathering official archives of the states and its parishes in addition to many diaries and private papers of historical interest. This department has also been given the responsibility of gathering state documents as they appear and exchanging with other libraries. Facilities for this exchange are just now in process of being arranged.

#### FACULTY:

The organization of the L. S. U. Library

School has changed slightly, with James A. McMillen as Chairman of the Library Division and Margaret M. Herdman as Director of the Library School.

Miss Herdman has returned after a year's leave of absence during which time she completed all but the final work for the Ph.D. degree in the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago.

Miss Helen Gordon Stewart, who was Acting Associate Director during Miss Herdman's absence, has remained as Professor of Library Science and Consultant in County and Larger Unit Problems.

Miss Florinell Francis, instructor in Classification and Cataloging, was a visiting instructor in the University of Illinois Library School during the 1937 summer session.

Visiting instructors in the L. S. U. Library School for the 1937 summer session were Guy R. Lyle, librarian of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Janet M. Agnew, instructor in the McGill Library School, Norris McClellan, librarian of the Scarsdale, N. Y. High School, and Mrs. Elizabeth Pressly Nichols, librarian of the Young High School, Knoxville, Tenn.

#### NEW PLACEMENTS:

Lucile Pugh resigned as assistant librarian of the Ouachita Parish High School, Monroe, to become librarian of the Fair Park High School in Shreveport. Mildred Gantt, of Andalusia, Ala., who received her degree from the Library School in August, was appointed assistant librarian at Ouachita Parish High School to succeed Miss Pugh.

Esther Robichaux, who served as librarian of the New Iberia High School last year, was transferred to the Jeanerette High School for the current session.

Ruth Reagan, librarian of the Sabine Parish Library, has a year's leave of absence and is acting librarian of the Webster Parish Library while Miss Harris heads up the new Tri-Parish Demonstration.

Blanche Fleming, for the past two years librarian of the Summerfield High School, has been appointed librarian of the Bolton High School in Alexandria, to succeed Lillie McGehee who resigned in June.

Jeanne Williams, who has been librarian of the Biology Library at L. S. U. for several years, has been transferred to the Cataloging department of the main library, and Margaret Woods has been transferred from the Binding department to the Browsing Room.

♦♦

Thirty-four students received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science from the L. S. U. Library School in June and August, 1937. Twenty-eight have accepted positions in Louisiana, three in Texas, one is married and out of the profession, and the other two have been recommended for positions but have not been heard from definitely.

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#### AT CENTENARY

During the session just past Centenary library began a "Recreational Reading Collection" which was housed on open shelves in the reading room. Increasing reading interests is a phase of library work which cannot be realized in a session, but it has been felt that this small collection of books from every division of the Dewey-Decimal System has encouraged the love of good books whether the circulation actually increased or not.

During the summer the library ordered quite a large collection of music books, not only encyclopedias, but general collateral reading material. This project grew out of the fact that Centenary was last year admitted to the National Association of Schools of Music as a provisional member, and though no particularly rare or unusual titles have been ordered the collection is at present a fairly complete and well-rounded one. Also included in the buying program was a special reference project, so that the library is considerably crowded at present with new books which is a decidedly happy prospect though it demands additional attention and work at the beginning of this new session.

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#### AT LOUISIANA STATE NORMAL

The Library at Natchitoches recently erected at a cost of \$150,000 is one of the

most beautiful in north Louisiana. It contains four floors of stack space and has a book capacity of 95,000 volumes. The building is brick and fireproof with all modern conveniences and appliances. There is an attractive third floor room devoted to the collection of Louisiana material, particularly that pertaining to Natchitoches parish. There is also a special collection of foreign language books, numbering 1500.

♦♦

#### TULANE UNIVERSITY

Miss Laura B. W. Jones, a graduate of Newcomb College in June, 1936, with a B. S. in L. S. degree from L. S. U. in June, 1937, has been appointed to a position in the Catalog Department of the Tilton Memorial Library. She had the bad luck to break her ankle in an automobile accident in August, and was not able to report for work until the fifteenth of October. Though she is still limping slightly, she can get about fairly well.

♦♦

Mr. and Mrs. Gropp returned on October 4, from their survey of archives in Central America. Though Mr. Gropp lost some fifteen pounds in a two weeks illness shortly before their return, it is reported that he regained ten of those during the boat trip home. Together, they were in charge of the first program of the New Orleans Library Club, held October 21 in the Department of Middle American Research.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune and the New Orleans Item carried stories in October of the acquisition of the Bando de Buen Gobierno of Gayoso de Lemos (1798) by the Tilton Memorial Library. Though not of vital historical importance, this is a rare New Orleans imprint, accompanied by two documents in Spanish attesting its authenticity.

♦♦

#### NORTHEAST CENTER

*Louisiana State University, Monroe, La.*

The library of The Northeast Center of L. S. U., at Monroe, was notified in June that the Carnegie Corporation of New York was making it the recipient of a grant of \$3,000,

(Continued on page 19.)



## Public Libraries

### ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Increased use of the library by children has been noted since the first of the year. This is due in part to teachers who are sending their pupils to the library for reference and recreational reading. Adults are making greater use of the reference books. This is particularly true of the men who are engaged in business and trades. The library has been able to extend its facilities to a group of people who have no way to reach the library in person. On lady in the community who has a car selects the books and returns them to the library after they have been read.

### NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Four members of the New Orleans Public Library staff attended the A. L. A. conference in New York in June.

Mr. E. L. McGivaren, Librarian.

Miss Anita McGinity, Children's Dept.

Miss Ruth Renaud, Catalog Department.

Miss Jeanne Brun, Catalog Department.

The entire staff of the New Orleans Public Library was made very happy by a general salary increase which went into effect on September 1st.

Miss Dorothy Beckemeyer, L. S. U. '37 is a recent addition to the Circulation Department staff of the New Orleans Public Library. She has also spent a short while in both the Reference and Catalog Departments.

Miss Marie Louise Goodwin, a member of the Circulation Department staff, New Orleans Public Library, has been granted a leave to take the Library Science course at L. S. U.

Miss Elizabeth Matthews is a new page in the Circulation Department, New Orleans Public Library.

Miss Fay Allen, University of North Carolina, '37 is a substitute in the Catalog Department, New Orleans Public Library. Miss

Allen also attended the A. L. A. conference in New York.

Mrs. Mary Smith is a new part-time member of the Children's Department staff and in the Schools Division. She has had special courses and training in story telling. She did county library work in Alabama and worked in branches of the Cleveland Public Library.

Mr. E. L. McGivaren, Librarian, New Orleans Public Library, was made Chairman of the Adult Education Round Table of the American Library Association. He is also a member of the Visual Methods Committee of the American Library Association.

Miss Jeanne Brun, assistant in the Catalog Department, New Orleans Public Library, was made Treasurer of the New Orleans Library Club for the 1937-38 session.

There are now 21 N. Y. A. workers at the New Orleans Public Library, divided among the branches and the various departments of the Main Library. Each Department Head has mapped out a special course of training which is given to the youth. They are also given training at the branches. General combined classes are planned for the future.

There are 46 W. P. A. workers at the New Orleans Public Library. They are divided among the branches and the various departments of the Main Library: Bindery, Government files, Catalog, Reference, Blind, Children's, Circulation, there is also a maid, janitor and utility man.

The entire outside of the New Orleans Public Library building is being cleaned. This work is being done for the Library by Mayor Robert S. Maestri. This is the first time, since the erection of the building in 1908, that this is ever known to have been done. Loose stone and crumbling sections are also being repaired and painted.

The branches of the New Orleans Public Library have all had their hours of opening increased by one hour. The hours frequently were 2 to 8 and now are 1 to 8, with the exception of Napoleon Branch whose patrons preferred 2 to 9.

The entire interior of the Main Library, New Orleans Public has been painted, cleaned and repaired. All of the six branches have had the most needed repairs made and general overhauling is expected in the near future. The heating equipment has been gone over and repaired at the Main Library and all of the branches.

The Children's Room of the New Orleans Public Library has been moved to attractive new quarters on the ground floor. There are curtains in the windows, gold fish, etc. An outstanding feature is the sea green asphalt tile floor with inlaid patterns illustrating scenes from story books.

The new adult reading room was opened in the space left vacant by the moving of the children's room. The public catalog was moved into the reading room. The old public catalog room has been converted into a room to be used by contestants. It will be stocked with encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other tools. The trade bibliographies have also been placed in this room, these will be used principally by the library staff, but will also be available to the public.

The staff room at the New Orleans Public Library has been recently painted. Mattresses were purchased for the two couches and many other touches were added, probably the most appreciated are the venetian blinds. The whole effect now is a lot more cheerful and pleasing.

The kitchen also was painted, a cabinet was purchased and all of the necessary kitchen equipment.

Several changes have been made in the registration procedure at the New Orleans Public Library. Guarantors are no longer required and the period of registration has

been reduced from five to three years.

At the New Orleans Public Library working hours have been cut down to a general 42 hours per week. (The previous average was 45 hours per week, and in many cases a great deal more, all the way up to as much as 60 hours per week.)

The New Orleans Public Library received a \$1,000 gift from the city to match \$1,000 from an anonymous donor in memory of Thomas Ludlow Clarke, a former Orleanian, to be used for the purchase of books from the Yale University press. This gift makes it possible to purchase 8 sets of the 50 v. set *Chronicles of America*, 7 sets of the 15v. set *Pageant of America*, 7 sets of the 9v. set *Corridors of Time*, by Harold Peake and Herbert J. Fleure; and 6 sets of the 6v. set *How America Went to War*, by Crowell and Wilson, and many other titles.

The New Orleans Public Library Board is asking for a budget increase for 1938. For 1937 the amount was .16 per capita, the proposed amount for 1938 is .23 per capita. The Board has pointed out that New Orleans is by far the lowest in the group of cities of similar size, as seen by viewing statistics. Where New Orleans has .16 per capita to spend, the medium for cities in the same class has been .64 per capita. Even if the Board is successful in obtaining the appropriation requested the budget will not exceed the total budget the library had in 1930. The Library League of New Orleans is doing everything in its power to aid the Library Board in obtaining the proposed budget.

The New Orleans Public Library cooperated with Columbia Broadcasting System with the "Shakespeare on the air" programs. The library had book marks printed. On one side was printed the list of plays and the dates of broadcast and the time—on the other side was printed the quotation from "As you like it", beginning "Sweet are the uses of adversity, etc"—at the top, and below was printed a list of readings on the various phases of Shakespeare, as: Shakes-

peare's life; Shakespearean theatre, etc. The library is always willing and anxious to co-operate with the radio and any other educational bodies in fostering and bringing before the public any worth while literature.

♦♦

The New Orleans Public School System has announced that the 4th grade students would not use geographies, but would use the public libraries and the zoos. The New Orleans Public Library is anticipating extra heavy demands made upon it.

♦♦

A system of service records was inaugurated at the New Orleans Public Library in January, 1937 which is to be used to measure staff efficiency and in making transfers, promotions, dismissals and otherwise recording accurately the performance of the staff. Ratings are made periodically with Department Heads participating in the evaluation of individual staff members.

♦♦

During the past nine months the circulation at the New Orleans Public Library has been showing a steady increase of about 2,000 books per month.

- MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
AT SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
- November 6—Caddo Parish Library Club luncheon at Washington-Youree Hotel at 12 o'clock.
- November 10—L. S. U. Book Circle Meeting with Annette Duchain lecturing. 8 o'clock.
- November 11—Citizen's Library Movement at 7:30 P.M.
- November 13-20—Book Week, with following special feature—
- November 19—Stanley Clisby Arthur, author of "Old New Orleans" and "Audubon" will speak on "Audubon, the colorful character", at 8 o'clock.

#### ALVIN PIKE HOWARD, 1889-1937

On September 30th, the Howard Memorial Library suffered an irreparable loss in

the death of Alvin P. Howard, Secretary and Treasurer of the institution. Mr. Howard died suddenly while on a visit to Texas. He had been one of the library's most active and interested trustees since 1911. Philanthropist and business man, he made numerous benefactions to the library and was at all times a wise counsellor.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 14th resolutions were passed expressing the great loss to the community because of Mr. Howard's death. Mr. Edgar B. Howard, of Byrn Mawr, Penn. was elected to fill the place left vacant by his brother.

#### THE TRI-PARISH LIBRARY

(Continued from page 3.)

with special requests for information throughout the period it has been in operation. These queries have covered a wide range of material, the residents of Winn, Grant and Jackson parishes seeking data on a variety of topics including the raising of frogs commercially, the establishment of a taxicab business, the shoeing of horses and numerous others.

During the past month the library was visited by Alfred Rawlinson, secretary, and Miss Vera Snook, chairman of the Arkansas Library Commission which has an appropriation of some \$64,000 for state aid in library development. Mr. Rawlinson during his visit expressed the hope that a regional library might be developed in Arkansas.

Generally speaking, the tri-parish library, off to a flying start, has already completed successfully the first lap of its year as an unusual demonstration of library development in Louisiana. With almost eight months remaining before the year is completed, the Louisiana Library Commission and the workers in the library have reason to feel that their venture is worthy of note and the tri-parish library will show once and for all the best method of bringing books to rural residents and the feasibility of combining several governmental units into one for library service.

## Louisiana Library Commission

CHOCKFUL of bright new ideas on library service, Debora Abramson, assistant secretary of the Louisiana Library Commission, is back in the office following a two-months survey of library extension agencies in four states—New Jersey, Wisconsin, Oregon and California.

Miss Abramson studied the library situation in those states after attending the American Library Association's convention in New York—and came back convinced that Louisiana's plan is the one best suited to the needs of this state.

She reported a definite trend in the direction of state aid for libraries and a general consensus of opinions that this and this only would provide the solution of giving an adequate book service to all the people.

And she came back imbued with the idea of a union catalogue of the contents of Louisiana libraries, the catalogue to be kept in the offices of the Louisiana Library Commission in the state capitol. Such a catalogue would mean a valuable record of the contents of the libraries in the state and would prove, Miss Abramson believes, a distinct addition to the resources of the librarians of the state.

As a starting point toward the union catalogue Miss Abramson suggested that librarians begin now making an extra card for books purchased currently, this card to be sent to the commission offices.

"This would at least be a beginning," Miss Abramson said, "and eventually the union catalogue would be a reality. The libraries should make the extra card for every non-fiction purchase, not taking for granted that the library commission is purchasing the same book. I believe a union catalogue would be most helpful to librarians."

Miss Abramson on her trip studied particularly the type of organization that is serving as a library extension agency in the various states, the variety of services offered, the amounts of money spent, the size of the staff and similar problems.

Practically all the states spent more money and had larger staffs than the Louisiana Library Commission, she said. Wisconsin had 36 on the staff, Oregon 25 and California 68.

Miss Abramson was particularly interested in the legislative reference service that has been developed in Wisconsin. Lawyers, trained in legislative work, are added to the staff during the years that Legislature meets and all bills are drafted there. The legislative reference unit has a history of every bill ever introduced on file and there can be found there a variety of material, necessary to legislative reference work.

The Oregon commission was preparing to move into new quarters when Miss Abramson visited that state and members of the staff were looking forward with interest to the move. In New Jersey much attention was being paid to the Citizens' Library Movement and an especially fine program of work had been planned for this group of interested citizens.

The summer has been a busy time in the offices of the Louisiana Library Commission. Vacations notwithstanding, the commission staff has set an all-time record for the number of books processed since June 1, reporting a grand total of some 7630 volumes prepared for circulation. Of this number more than 7,000 were designed for the commission's tri-parish demonstration in Winn, Grant and Jackson parishes and the remainder were for the commission's own collection. In fact several records for speed were broken in preparations for that demonstration for when funds were made available for the demonstration, the commission pitched in and got ready to open the library in nothing flat.

Louisiana's plan of library development was studied by several librarians while Miss Abramson was learning all about the library work in other states.

From faraway South Africa came Miss Gladys Oppenheim, head of the Bloemfontein public library in the Orange Free State, to find out about the library movement here.



Miss Oppenheim spent several days with Miss Essae Martha Culver, executive secretary of the commission, and was much intrigued with the libraries here. She confessed to a great timidity in the presence of newspaper reporters and told librarians in Baton Rouge how she took her training by correspondence from London, often waiting three months for an answer to a question.

Miss Pearl Sneed, new executive secretary of the Mississippi Library Commission, also visited the Louisiana agency as did also Miss Vera Snook and Alfred Rawlinson, chairman and executive secretary respectively of the Arkansas Library Commission. These latter two came for ideas on ways and means of spending the \$100,000 appropriation recently made in Arkansas.

Of this appropriation \$54,600 will be used as state aid for establishing regional and county libraries. The visiting librarians paused at the tri-parish library on their return trip and expressed the hope that at least one regional library will be the result of the appropriation. Arkansas is the first Southern state to appropriate so large a sum for state aid and Mr. Rawlinson hopes to make the program there a model for the entire South.

The commission has been swamped, literally, with requests for aid in preparing club programs, a service it has always rendered to clubwomen of Louisiana. This fall there is to be published a booklet containing suggestions for clubwomen, topics and possibly books which the clubwomen will find helpful. This type of special request has received earnest attention from commission workers and a general upswing in the programs may be attributed largely to the work that the commission has done.

During the summer the Louisiana Library Commission cooperated in the annual folk schools which are so important a part of community life in this state. The commission brought to many of the schools Dr. Janet Miller, missionary, author, world renowned authority on sleeping sickness and a grand person, who gave a series of addresses. Dr. Miller and Miss Culver attended a number of the folk schools and libraries in

the state generally aided in giving suggestions for both programs and talks. These folk schools, as librarians know, were organized by Miss Mary Mims, community organizer for the Louisiana State University extension division, who is the moving spirit behind them.

The commission has a special collection of children's books, given by publishers, who selected these particular books as the best issued during the year. This group, several hundred volumes in all, may be viewed by librarians who desire it shipped to them and who want to look over the new books before placing orders. The collection was exhibited in the late spring in many libraries and at many conventions and it is still available for those librarians who desire an exhibit for any purpose. It is necessary only to write the commission offices, giving the date the exhibit is desired.

Along with preparing club programs, processing books for the demonstration library, aiding the folk schools and entertaining visitors, the library commission has found time to answer 20,725 special requests since January 1. These requests have come from all over the state and have been on a variety of subjects. In fact, the librarians could easily qualify for the "Ask Me Another" gallery.

Last but far from least among the projects in which the commission is interested is the Citizens' Library Movement. Founded at Shreveport at the close of the Louisiana Library Association's convention, the movement represents an effort to crystallize the interest in libraries in Louisiana. J. O. Modisette of Jennings is the chairman of the Citizens' Library Movement, and its other officers are Mrs. Fenn Leaming, Mansfield, vice-chairman; Mrs. Allen Hackett, New Orleans, secretary, and Ward Delaney, Shreveport, treasurer. Governor Richard W. Leche is the honorary chairman and State Superintendent of Education T. H. Harris and President James Monroe Smith of L. S. U. are honorary vice-chairman.

Membership in the organization is now open. Since every effort of the group is to

(Continued on page 18.)

## *Junior Members Round Table*

**J**UNIOR MEMBERS, rise to the curtain call—

Since this is our first appearance as a recognized life-pulsing body it might be interesting to look to our beginning.

"Louisiana was the first to have a 'going concern'. Forty-three juniors had breakfast together during the state association conference in April 1935, and Mildred Hogan of the State Department of Education was elected chairman. During the first year a splendid information file of members was compiled. The Louisiana Library Association had a junior member as chairman of the program committee for the April meeting and many juniors appeared on the program". At the 1936 conference, the group had grown from forty-three to sixty-three. In 1937 we number 100 active members, all waiting to be given a chance to do things—but to make the chances, and seize the opportunities should be our routine of living, there are no silver platters or even Greeks to fear today. Our presents are all of our own making.

The JMRT is working with the aim of fostering professional expression and promoting greater responsibility and common understanding among the younger members of the profession. In our short span of existence our record has been good. We have made a fair showing and a place for ourselves in our State Association. Since we are the Junior Members, we are the youth of the Library Movement in Louisiana and throughout most of the states. Kansas, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Vermont, Colorado, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, are fair examples of our sisters' and brothers' active participation in the Library field.

Our program plans for special meetings for the discussion of library topics of particular interest to us younger librarians. Our section organization gives us an opportunity to gain experience, to participate more generally in conference and other professional activities. In providing for these things our primary purpose is to cooperate as a body with the Louisiana Library section, our bib-

liophilic parent, and to encourage membership in the American Library Association.

We have been told by our older friends that the way to success lies through the American Library Association. Mae Modisette our Vice-President has left us on a year's leave of absence from L. S. U. to take a position in New York offered her while attending the last national meeting in June. A number of us were there and were treated so royally by the "important people" like Mr. Harrison Craver, this year's President of the A. L. A. and Miss Margaret Mann, the catalogers' friend, that we realized suddenly the position for us in library work is already there waiting for us to occupy it. On Monday of the conference, June 21 at 8:30 a.m., the JMRT breakfasted in the Silver Grill of the Hotel Lexington with Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Wyer as guests. Mr. Wyer is a slender white haired gentleman with a charming manner and Mrs. Wyer is her husband's cheerful, cordial companion and "Spurrer on" to greater glory. On Wednesday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m., an annual business meeting and an election of officers was held. At this meeting besides informal talks on exchanges a staff member of the British Library of Information gave a brief description. On Friday evening toward the end of the conference a delightful tea in the Terrace Garden on top of the British Empire building at Radio City afforded a chance for Juniors to meet each other in one of New York's pleasant settings.

But these faraway meetings have not been the only ones enjoyed by JMRT. A most interesting get acquainted meeting was held in New Orleans in February of this year. (If you look in the *Wilson Bulletin* for April 1937 you will see a picture of the JMRT chairman who is also the Secretary of the Southwestern District, Evelyn Stuart.)

Did anyone ask what the Junior Members are doing?

They are everywhere in conspicuous places. Dorothy Moss is the Public Librarian of Shreveport, Ralph McComb, whether he chooses to admit his Juniorship or not—some

of these youngsters are alarming—heads Tulane University; Edward S. McGivaren, New Orleans Public Library, who by now has made real library history is the Junior Member who stepped into a frying pan and extinguished the fire beneath it; Margaret Burke, Junior Member, is Librarian of Xavier University, a new phase of the Library profession and most interesting. She is shy but has done excellent work; Paul Postell is head of the Order department at L. S. U., no small job; Helen Maestri has Margaret C. Hanson Normal College well in hand and everywhere our Junior Members direct, organize and form the mainspring of our high school libraries throughout the state. Our distinguished chairman who is about to change her name is Behrman High's (Algiers) Library authority.

So Junior Members—take heart, "Let us give our soul to our work and let us work with out heart for our cause—and—love what we love". Our activity has not been poor but each of us can give a little more of himself for an enthusiastic, humming project. At the May meeting the JMRT chose that of cooperating with the Louisiana Library Association Journal under the able guidance of Mr. Robert Usher of the Howard Memorial Library. The JMRT is to have a special section by its own request and here is work for all. When we are called upon, let us come forward cheerfully and willingly, and as speedily as possible to add our bit to the whole, and thus spend a profitable spirited year.

Greetings to all Junior Members!

Patsy Burguières, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
*JMRT Louisiana Library Association*

### HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

(Continued from page 5.)

but thousands of others all over the State are spending fascinated hours with the new books sent to them by the State Department of Education. Many librarians say that the arrival of the books has stimulated their students' reading interest greatly, and from the Neville High School in Monroe comes the

report that the number of books circulated in the first week of this session was 738, as compared to 381 for the corresponding week last year.

Over 200,000 books were distributed to the school between June and September by Thos. J. Moran's Sons of New Orleans, the library book depository. At present plans are being made for the next State purchase of books, which will occur in the spring of 1938. It is expected that every high-school library will receive an allotment of about one volume per student; each elementary-school library, one volume for each two pupils.

Worn books mended and recased by skilful workers, without charge to the school—this is the unusual service which many a school librarian will be offered during the year through the book-mending project sponsored jointly by the Works Progress Administration and the State Board of Education. Eighteen units, with over 600 workers, are now in operation in the following cities: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Covington, Farmerville, Hammond, Jonesboro, Minden, Monroe, New Orleans, Oakdale, Rayville, Ruston, Shreveport, De Ridder, Port Allen, and Winnsboro.

At first the work is limited to the repair of old textbooks, but as the workers become more skilful, they are allowed to handle school library books. The work done is considered very satisfactory in quality, and in many cases even artistic. In each case a school librarian acts as a technical supervisor, offering advice and suggestions to the workers as needed.

"Reading—the Magic Highway to Adventure" is to be the theme of exhibits and programs during this year's Book Week, nationally observed from November 14 to 20. Originally known as Children's Book Week, it has come to be celebrated by young people and adults as well. School librarians on the alert for new ideas in publicity will find it an excellent opportunity to arouse students' interest in reading, and this year's slogan should prove very suggestive.



## *Libraries for Negroes*

**L**IBRARIES for Negroes in Louisiana seem to have taken visible shape at last. Anyone who was present at the dedication of the Xavier University Library in New Orleans can vouch for that fact.

A sturdy and gracious building now houses the Xavier book collection. This building was constructed at a cost of One Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$149,000.00), Fifty Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000.00) of which was given by the General Education Board. It was ready for occupancy the end of August of this year, but was not formally dedicated until the twelfth of October, Founder's Day at Xavier University.

An interesting program marked the dedication. The actual blessing of the building—and a thorough job His Excellency, Archbishop Rummel of New Orleans, did, leaving nary a cranny for the bad in the world of books—was the first event. Then followed a formal program of speeches and music in the Xavier University Auditorium. Rev. Edward F. Murphy, S. S. J., Ph.D. was Master of Ceremonies. Charles L. Denechaud, Knight of St. Gregory, gave the address of welcome. From Washington and the Catholic University of America came Dr. Roy Joseph DeFerrari, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, to talk at some length of the history and importance of libraries. H. Council Trenholm, President of Alabama State Teachers College, spoke of the new Xavier that has taken its place in the field of new education for a group becoming more conscious each day of its possibilities. His Excellency, Joseph Francis Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, spoke of two people who were with Xavier in spirit at the dedication of her library — Mother Katherine Drexel, foundress of the order of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, and Pius XI, the "librarian pope". His Excellency spoke of Mother Katherine's generosity, unselfishness, and keenness, and her sense of work well done as she sees Xavier taking her place in the sun. He spoke

of Pius XI's long years in the libraries of Milan and the Vatican, when he was a "library mouse," the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. His excellency also spoke of the responsibility that is a librarian's to lead the reader to what is worthwhile in literature and away from what is dangerous.

Supper was served after the program and informal tours of the Library followed. Among the library people at the dedication were Mr. and Mrs. McGivaren of the New Orleans Public Library, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Usher of the Howard Memorial Library, Miss Carothers of the Dillard University Library, Mr. Ralph McComb of the Tulane University Library, Mr. James McMillen of the Louisiana State University Library, Miss Margaret Herdman, Miss Mildred Harrington, Miss Florrinnell Francis, and Miss S. Metella Williams of the Louisiana State University School of Library Science.

The Library has a capacity of 78,000 volumes and at present houses 21,000 volumes. On the ground floor are the President of the University's office, a museum, an exhibit hall, the information office, a browsing room, seminar rooms, a delivery room and what is to be a medical clinic, entirely separate from the rest of the building. On the main floor are the Main Reading Room which seats 126, and the Periodical Room which seats 44, a browsing corner, the circulation room where the charging desk is located, the librarian's office, and the Cataloging Department. In the tower is located the Art Department. There are four floors of stacks. The latest type equipment has been used throughout, and the stacks have been very favorably commented upon. Reserve books are shelved behind barriers in the Main Reading Room. The staff numbers two trained librarians, one assistant working on her library degree, one secretary, thirty student-assistants.

Having looked at Xavier's happy library situation, let's look at the other Negro college and university libraries in the State.



Southern University in Scotlandville reports a rather good library situation. The library has 13,500 books, all purchased since 1928 and all purchased from approved lists and from faculty suggestions. Books for children number about 1300 of the previously mentioned total. These are housed in a room set apart for them in the Training School for teachers. They were chosen from the Wilson catalogs and the Louisiana and Hampton lists. The staff is very small, one librarian trained at Hampton, one full-time untrained assistant with five years experience at Southern and four student assistants. The library is supported solely by the State, though it has received several grants and gifts, including One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) from the General Education Board last year for special equipment and books for the reference department. The Rosenwald Fund has given several grants or gifts for the Main Library and the Children's Library.

The Leland College Library in Baker, Louisiana, is located on the second floor of the Administration Building. The reading room space is very inadequate. However, a drive is on to build a new auditorium and this will relieve the crowded condition, as the present chapel will then become the library. The library contains over four thousand (4,000) volumes, mainly selected by faculty members. The range of subjects is quite wide, but limited funds do not permit the purchase of as many books as are desired. Leland's greatest needs are space and funds—and don't we all share in her needs.

Dillard University in New Orleans is a young but thriving institution. The library is very small—just a few thousand books—but the librarian makes the most of her meagre resources and has created a delightful atmosphere—in a basement! What was to be the reading room has of necessity become the university auditorium; what was to be the stack room is the main reading room. The librarian has one full-time untrained assistant and twelve student assistants. The book stack is made up of the best resources of Straight College and New Orleans University, which two colleges fused to become Dil-

lard University. Of course there have been some additions to the book stock. Recently quite a noble sum was expended on books, but as yet the library does not receive adequate financial support.

Now let us look at the school library situation in Louisiana. The state appropriation for library books benefitted the Negro schools materially. The books are used in the parishes through a system of circulating library service. The books have been installed, as a rule, in the high school and the small schools are supplied from the main library. All parishes of the State have not participated in the first order. The principal reason for this is that in parishes not participating there is either no high school or no facilities for administering the library service. This state library service is the beginning of what will be a permanent establishment of general library service for the Negro schools, but there is still a great deal to be done. Still school principals say: "We have no books; we need books; we want books."

Mention should be made of the excellent work being done in Webster Parish. Library service has been established in 18 of the 34 schools in the parish. The plan is to gradually give ever center in the parish this service. In the meantime, schools without established library service have the privilege of using the headquarters branch at Minden by taking a few books at a time to the schools for classroom service. Another important factor in the establishment of service has been the Library Advisory Board composed of four outstanding Negro teachers and the supervisor of library work. The parish librarian has called the Board to meet and discuss all phases of the work with the colored people.

The Public Library situation for Negroes is quite sorry. Monroe, Shreveport, Alexandria, Lake Charles offer very poor library service to Negroes. New Orleans hopes to improve her service in the near future.

All in all, the Negro Library situation in Louisiana is much better than a great many people think it is but it is much worse than it should be.

## LOUISIANA LIBRARY COMMISSION

(Continued from page 13.)

be centered on development of additional libraries and strengthening of existing ones, it is hoped that librarians in the state will enroll as members and lend their cooperation in the building up of a strong and enthusiastic membership all over Louisiana. Full information may be obtained from Margaret Dixon, Executive Secretary, Box 131, Baton Rouge.

Establishment of the tri-parish library brought with it some changes in personnel in the parish libraries in Louisiana. Miss Mary Harris, past president of the Louisiana Library Association, is directing the tri-parish library. Her place in the Webster parish library has been taken by Miss Ruth Reagan, who has been succeeded in the Sabine parish library by Miss Emily Spencer. Also assisting in the tri-parish library demonstration are Miss Bess Vaughan, formerly of the commission staff, Miss Elizabeth Cammack, Miss Anna Johnson and Miss Louise Grey.

Generally speaking, the summer months have been exceedingly busy for the Louisiana Library Commission. There has been something happening every minute.

Lack of space prevents publication in this number of a bibliographical contribution by Mrs. Marguerite Renshaw of the Howard Memorial Library—Louisiana in Print. This feature will appear in the December number and in succeeding issues.

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## NORTHEAST CENTER

(Continued from page 8.)

available in annual installments of \$1,000. This is part of a grant of \$300,000 for junior colleges over the U. S. Some books have already been received, under the grant, and the library expects to add items which have not been advisable hitherto. The grant followed a visit to the library in February by Mr. Foster Mohrhardt. Mr. Morhardt is the compiler for the Corporation's Advisory Group on Junior College Libraries, of a list of books of junior college libraries, A. L. A., 1936.

The librarian at Northeast Center, L. S. U., is conducting a class in which all freshmen must register: The use of books and libraries. The class meets once a week, for the first semester, and the members are divided into groups of ten for laboratory work in the library, one group meeting at each hour of the school day. One hour credit is given for the course.

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